

What is claimed is:

1                   1.       A web tuner apparatus comprising:  
 2                   a first means for storing at least one of a plurality of relationships between  
 3 a user definable identifier for a media source and a source of a media stream;  
 4                   a means for remotely controlling receiving, and selecting media, and for  
 5 receiving an input of said at least one of a plurality of relationships between a user  
 6 definable identifier and a media source;  
 7                   a means for displaying information about media sources and receiving  
 8 input of a selection of a media stream to be played;  
 9                   a means for selecting one of said at least one of a plurality of types of  
 10 media to receive based upon said input of a selection of a media stream to be played;  
 11                   a means for receiving at least one of a plurality of types of media; and  
 12                   an output interface means for providing a media output selected by said  
 13 means for selecting.

1                   2.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said media includes at least one  
 2 selected from cable television, television broadcast, radio broadcast, world wide web, and  
 3 Internet based information.

1                   3.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one of a plurality of  
 2 relationships between a user definable identifier and a media source comprises a logical  
 3 channel table.

1                   4.       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said means for remotely  
 2 controlling receiving, and selecting media comprises a channel service user interface for a  
 3 plurality of media types, wherein said sources of media are mapped into logical channel  
 4 values.

1                   5.       The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
 2 a network interface means for providing connectivity to a server.

1                   6.       A web station apparatus comprising:  
 2 a means for storing subscriber URL information, said information  
 3 comprising at least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories, said categories providing

4 organization for identifiers of media content for at least one of a plurality of sources of  
 5 media streams;  
 6 a network interface means for providing connectivity to an Internet;  
 7 a means for searching said hierarchical categories in said subscriber URL  
 8 information to find media having content of interest; and  
 9 a means for providing said content of interest to a user.

1 7. The web station apparatus of claim 6, wherein said media further  
 2 comprises at least one selected from cable television, television broadcast, radio  
 3 broadcast, world wide web, and Internet based information.

1 8. The web station apparatus of claim 6, wherein said means for  
 2 storing subscriber URL information further comprises at least one of a plurality of  
 3 relational categories that organize said media content.

1 9. The web station apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a means  
 2 for storing personal channel information, wherein a personal channel table stored locally  
 3 at a user site is mirrored by said means for storing personal channel information, enabling  
 4 users to reference said channel table from remote locations.

1 10. A system comprising:  
 2 a web station;  
 3 a web tuner; and  
 4 a network interface providing connectivity to an Internet; and enabling the  
 5 web station to be accessed by the tuner;  
 6 wherein the web tuner maintains personal channel information for at least  
 7 one of a plurality of users; and wherein the web station maintains a copy of the said  
 8 personal channel information for at least one of a plurality of users.

1 11. A computer-readable storage medium storing program code for  
 2 causing a computer to:  
 3 retrieve at least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media source of media  
 4 streams to be played;  
 5 display said at least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media source of  
 6 media streams to be played;

7                   select, via a user interface, a media stream to be played from at least one of  
 8 a plurality of media to receive, said selecting performed by selecting one from said at  
 9 least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media source of media streams to be played;  
 10                   command a switch to select said media stream to be played from among  
 11 said at least one of a plurality of types of media received by at least one receiver; and  
 12                   output said media stream to be played via an output interface.

1                   12.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein said  
 2 identifiers comprise user definable identifiers, said user definable identifiers being stored  
 3 in a first personal information store.

1                   13.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the  
 2 program code further causes the computer to:  
 3                   forward from a first location a copy of said first personal information store  
 4 to a server;  
 5                   create at said server a copy of said first personal information store; and  
 6                   access said copy of said first personal information store to retrieve said at  
 7 least one of a plurality of user definable identifiers for a media source of media streams to  
 8 be played from a second location at a later time.

1                   14.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the  
 2 program code further causes the computer to:  
 3                   store a user definable identifier for a media source of a media stream being  
 4 played currently, said user definable identifier being stored in a first personal information  
 5 store.

1                   15.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein said  
 2 identifiers are stored in a subscriber URL information store.

1                   16.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, wherein the  
 2 program code further causes the computer to:  
 3                   store an identifier for a media source, said identifier being stored in a  
 4 subscriber URL information store, said subscriber URL information store comprising at  
 5 least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories, said categories providing organization  
 6 for identifiers of media content.

1           17.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, wherein the  
 2 program code further causes the computer to:  
 3           select via a user interface a related media stream to be played, said related  
 4 media stream to be played having content related to said media stream to be played, said  
 5 selecting performed by selecting one from at least one of a plurality of URL identifiers  
 6 for said media stream to be played; and thereupon selecting a second URL identifier  
 7 corresponding to said related media stream to be played..

1           18.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein said  
 2 media further comprises media of disparate types, wherein said types of media include at  
 3 least one selected from cable television, television broadcast, radio broadcast, world wide  
 4 web, and Internet based information.

1           19.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the  
 2 program code further causes the computer to:  
 3           receive an identity of a user; and  
 4           provide a plurality of user definable identifiers for said user.

1           20.    The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the  
 2 program code further causes the computer to:  
 3           scan an input source for at least one of a plurality of receivable television  
 4 channels;  
 5           map said at least one of a plurality of receivable television channels to at  
 6 least one of a plurality of identifiers;  
 7           scan an input source for at least one of a plurality of receivable radio  
 8 frequencies;  
 9           map said at least one of a plurality of receivable radio frequencies to at  
 10 least one of a plurality of identifiers;  
 11           scan an input source for at least one of a plurality of internet based media  
 12 sources; and  
 13           map said at least one of a plurality of internet based media sources to at  
 14 least one of a plurality of identifiers.